

Claims

1. A composition for the prevention and treatment of diabetic complications, which contains an extract obtained by:
5 crushing and drying any one selected from *Euphorbiae radix*, gingered *Magnolia* bark, parched *Puerariae radix* and *Glycyrrhizae radix*; extracting the dried herbal material with alcohol or aqueous alcohol solution; filtering the extract; and concentrating the filtrate under reduced pressure.

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2. A composition for the prevention and treatment of diabetic complications, which contains a mixture of extracts from *Euphorbiae radix*, gingered *Magnolia* bark, parched *Puerariae radix* and *Glycyrrhizae radix*, the amount of each of
15 the herbal extracts being 5-85% by weight based on 100% by weight of the herbal extract mixture.

20 3. A composition for the prevention and treatment of diabetic complications, which contains an herbal extract mixture obtained by: crushing and drying each of *Euphorbiae Radix*, gingered *Magnolia* bark, parched *Puerariae radix* and *Glycyrrhizae radix*; mixing the crushed herbal materials together, each of the herbal materials being used at an amount
25 of 5-85% by weight based on the total weight of the herbal materials taken as 100% by weight; extracting the herbal mixture with alcohol or aqueous alcohol solution; filtering the extract; and concentrating the filtrate under reduced pressure.

30 4. A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention or treatment of diabetic complications, which contains, as an active ingredient, an extract obtained as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3.

35 5. A functional food for the prevention or treatment of diabetic complications, which contains, as an active ingredient, an extract obtained as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3.

6. A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention and delay of aging, which contains, as an active ingredient, an extract obtained as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3.

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7. A functional food for the prevention and delay of aging, which contains, as an active ingredient, an extract obtained as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3.

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8. A composition for the prevention or treatment of diabetic complications, which contains, as an active ingredient, magnolol isolated from *Magnolia* bark, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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9. The composition of Claim 8, wherein the magnolol is obtained by: extracting *Magnolia* bark with 80% ethanol aqueous solution at ambient temperature for 24 hours; systematically separating the extract in the order of normal-hexane, ethyl acetate and normal-butanol; selecting the normal-hexane layer and separating the selected layer into pre-fractions by normal silica gel chromatography; comparing the pre-fractions with the standard form magnolol on TLC to determine a magnolol-enriched fraction; and separating magnolol from the magnolol-enriched fraction by silica gel column chromatography.

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10. A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention or treatment of diabetic complications, which contains, as an active ingredient, magnolol obtained as claimed in Claim 8.

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11. A functional food for the prevention or treatment of diabetic complications, which contains, as an active ingredient, magnolol obtained as claimed in Claim 8.

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12. A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention and delay of aging, which contains, as an active ingredient, magnolol obtained as claimed in Claim 8.

13. A functional food for the prevention and delay of aging, which contains, as an active ingredient, magnolol obtained as claimed in Claim 8.